

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are in this application and are presented for reconsideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1 - 15, added new claims 16 - 20 and made various minor changes to the specification and claims to improve the clarity and style of this application and to address issues raised in the Office Action.

Specifically, the independent claims 1 and 15 has been amended to properly clarify and highlight the important differences of the present invention which define over the prior art. Applicant has added new claims 16 - 20 which are based on the independent claims 1 and the specification but are presented in the US style. The new claims do not add any new matter to the application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of the application, and for providing suggestions. It is Applicant's position that the claims 1 and 15 as amended are not placed in condition for allowance, all issues have now been addressed by this amendment and that the application is in condition for allowance in consideration of the remark below.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1 - 15 have been objected to as having numerous punctuation and the Office Action suggests changing the claims on at least two parts.

In response, Applicant has made the changes as suggested in the Office Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4 - 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the rejection states that claim 4 recites "for the convenience to fix it" where the "it" is indefinite.

In response, the Applicant has amended claims 4 - 6 and eliminated the recitation of "it".

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1 - 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Harris (U.S. Pat. No. 1,656,148, "Harris '148", hereinafter). The prior art as a whole including the Harris '148 reference neither teaches nor suggests the present invention as claimed. Harris '148 reference discloses an artificial Christmas tree including a plurality of unitary sections and a supporting base, where each section comprises a rigid tank portion and a plurality of branches forming a unit with the trunk portion.

The trunk portion, according to the Harris '148 reference, is readily separable from and attachable to each other. Each unitary section also comprises a wiring system including an electric lamp socket and readily detachable and attachable electrical connections at the end of the trunk portions. The branches of each trunk portion are flexibly adjustable and attached at one end thereto so as to permit their being collapsed toward the trunk portion for storage and shipping. The upper end of the trunk portions following the topmost section has identical connections and the lower ends of the trunk portions have identical connections, whereby each of the sections is adapted to be connected either to a succeeding unit or to the base to form a

variable size tree.

A. Elongated Height-adjusting Pipe with a Clearance

However, the Harris '148 reference does not disclose nor suggest a height-adjusting pipe section that has a clearance for grabbing. This is an important feature of the present invention as claimed. Instead, the height of the tree disclosed in the Harris '148 reference can only be adjusted by taking out a trunk portion with branches.

B. Base Frame Made of Collapsible Skeleton Legs

Furthermore, the Harris '148 reference does not disclose a base frame which has a vertical center axle and a plurality of skeleton legs. According to the present invention as claimed and amended, these skeleton leg are made of a top branch frame and a bottom branch frame branching out from an upper and a lower portion of the center axle to meet at a single base part. Another important feature of the present invention is that these plurality of skeleton legs collapse about the center axis by the use of the axle.

In fact, Applicant has reviewed the Harris '148 reference, and finds neither a teaching nor a suggestion of a height-adjusting pipe which does not have any branches in the prior art making it easy to grab the pipe portion to adjust the height of the tree nor a collapsible frame base. Therefore claims 1 - 15 cannot be anticipated by the Harris '148 reference.

Applicant further notes that the Harris '148 reference does not provide any suggestion or motivation which would lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to believe that a Christmas

tree as disclosed by the Harris '148 reference has a height adjusting pipe portion which can raise or lower the whole height of the tree or a base made of collapsible skeleton frame legs. Instead, the Harris '148 reference leads a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide additional trunk portions connected to a plurality of branches which is very difficult to grab. Such height adjusting tree is completely different from the present invention as claimed. Further, the Harris '148 reference discloses a simple base 14 which is not collapsible in the manner in which the device according to the present invention as claimed can be made.

The combination features of the height adjusting pipes and the collapsible base, not taught by the prior art, provide several improved effect for the present invention as claimed. For instance, the present invention as claimed has the advantage of providing a handle for easily adjusting the height without taking the whole upper portion down first. Second, the clearance around the height-adjusting pipe allows a person assembling the tree to avoid unnecessary finger cuts when handling the sharp edges of the branches. Third, the collapsible base makes storage much simpler and because the base is frame-wire, the cost of manufacture is cheaper as well.

Furthermore, Applicant finds no incentive in the Harris '148 reference which would lead a person to all the structural features of the top pipe portion, the bottom height adjusting pipe portion, and the collapsible base frame of the independent claims 1, 15, and 16. The above two advantages each are due to the combination of features as claimed and the advantages can not be obtained from the prior art. The invention solves the problem of easy adjustment, assembly, and storage of trees.

Absent a teaching or suggestion of the important feature of the invention, the combined references clearly do not direct the person of ordinary skill in the art toward the combination as claimed. In fact, the present invention provides a different approach as compared to the Harris '148 reference and solves problems which Applicant has observed as noted above with regards to taking down, assembling or adjusting the height of the tree more easily without getting cut. As the Harris '148 reference fails to teach and fails to suggest the height adjusting feature or the collapsible base feature of the present invention, Harris '148 reference provides no teaching no suggestion to the person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the combination as claimed. There must be some suggestion or teaching in the prior art as a whole which would lead the person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the combination as claimed. As the prior art as a whole fails to direct the person of ordinary skill in the art toward the claimed combination, the invention should be considered not anticipated, non-obvious and thus patentable.

Therefore, Applicant finds that the Harris '148 reference does not anticipate the current invention and there is no suggestion or motivation to use the teachings of the references to provide the combination as claimed.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of the claims as now presented in view of the discussion above and solicits the allowance of this application.

It is applicant's position that all claims are now allowable. Should the Examiner determine that issues remain that have not been resolved by this response, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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JJM/DWK:
71146.7

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BY: McGlew DATE: March 11, 2005

MARKED-UP SPECIFICATIONDocket #71146 (PAT91109)

COMBINATIVE TREE WITH DECORATIVE LIGHT STRINGS WITH COMBINATIVE TREE

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a combinative tree with decorative light strings.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] A conventional lamp light string set in a Christmas light string is
5 consistingconsists of a lamp bulb, lamp base, lamp holder, multiple electrical conductors,
receptacles orand/or flasher control, whereinint. The electrical conductors can be single or, double
or more thantwowires wound into an electrical circuit.-

[0003] The distributed conductors can be formed in by one, two or more than two electrical conductors, such as provided in the Fig. 4 of USP the U.S. Patent No. 4,241,387 and the Figs. 1 and 2 of the prior art in this case.

[0004] In general, it is to use said the exemplary electrical conductors to be wound in ⁵ the trees. Such is However, winding and unwinding can be troublesome and monotonous. Further

[0005] Furthermore, such kind of work is used winding and unwinding could lead to tangled up wire cradle after being used for several years. The present invention is an improvement in over the defects problems of the conventional products. ¶

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] Therefore, it is the objective of the present invention to use artificial trunks and branches of a decorative tree to make the provide a set of decorative light strings along with the electrical connectors wound on the tree itself. This way, so that the decorative light strings and branches of trees are to the tree form a shape so as to obtain a decorative effect.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] The objective of the present invention is to make a conventional Christmas

light strings ~~be package~~ that is easy to transport and to make an improvement in ~~improve~~ on the defects of the conventional products, thereby avoiding unnecessary winding and unwinding of the product.

5 [0008] The present invention relates to achieves those objectives by providing a kindset of decorative light strings ~~within~~ a combinative tree, including a long trunk to be composed of many short pipes, where the height of tree lamp can be adjustable~~adjusted~~ by thea number of the short pipe;pipes.

10 [0009] The base frame is to uses a supporting surface to erect the base frame itself and has a center axle to support a long trunk to stand up right and straight.

[0010] A set of multiple branches connect with the long trunk; where single or multiple sets of light strings,

composed of many lamp bulbs, lamp holders, electrical conductors and receptacles, to be are fixed on the branches to establish tree light strings.

15 [0011] The present invention is to provides a decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is to use by using the long trunk and said where the long trunk is composed of many hollow short pipes to be connected with each other.

[0012] The present invention is to provide also provides for a set of decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is to use the short hollow pipes to be manufactured by metal. The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is to use the hollow short pipes having tenon for the 5 convenience to fix it.

[0013] The object of the present invention is to provide a set of decorative light strings with combinative tree and where its characteristic is an outer rim of one end of the short pipes at the predetermined distance of the open end having a flange. Another end has a predetermined length of L-indentation from the open end extending and matching the position of the flange. 10 From the end having the flange, said flange is to aim at the open end of the L-indentation of another short pipe, to fit into the right position, then to rotate it to L-tail and to fix it tightly.

The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is to use the base part of L-indentation of the short pipe having an enlarge area so that the flange can be dovetailed into the enlarged area so as not to upside down and depart.

15 The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is the short pipes on the long trunk providing with one or more connecting rings to connect with many branches.

The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is the

base frame to be composed of many branch frames. It is able to stretch out or to fold up from the center axle.

5 The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is the base part of branch frame having fastening ring. The pin is going through said fastening ring to nail into supporting surface and fix the base frame.

The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is the base frame to be stretched out from the center axle and base frame will not 10 fall on a certain angle of supporting surface.

The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is the support surface used to erect the base frame able to be indoor and out door floor.

15 The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its characteristic is the support surface used to erect the base frame able to be soften and hard floors at out door.

The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its

characteristic is to provide the hollow short pipe between the long trunk and base frame. Said hollow short pipe did not attach with branch and light string to increase the distance between this light string and supporting surface.

The present invention is to provide decorative light strings with combinative tree and its
5 characteristic is to use light string having the protection device, transformer or functional control device to increase the decorative function.

The present invention relates to decorative light strings with combinative tree. It is another kind of decorative light strings with combinative tree including a long trunk to be composed of many short pipes, the height of tree lamp can be adjustable by the number of the short pipe; an outer
10 rim of one end of the hollow short pipes at the predetermined distance of the open end having a flange. Another end has a predetermined length of L-indentation from the open end extending and matching the position of the flange. From the end having the flange, said flange is to aim at the open end of the L-indentation of another short pipe, to fit into the right position, then to rotate it to L-tail and to fix it tightly; base frame is to use a supporting surface to erect the base frame
15 and has a center axle to support long trunk to stand up right straight; multiple branches connect with the long trunk; single or multiple sets of light strings, composed of many lamp bulbs, lamp holders, electrical conductors and receptacles, to be fixed on the branches to establish tree light strings.

100141 The various features of novelty which characterize the invention are pointed out
20 with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better

understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and specific objects attained by its uses, reference is made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which preferred embodiments of the invention are illustrated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 The detailed descriptions are done accompanying the drawings and preferred embodiments of the present invention:

[0015] In the drawings:

[0016] Fig. 1 is a perspective view with 3-dimention of decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention.

10 [0017] Fig.2 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the connection style of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention;

[0018] Fig.3 is a perspective view with 3-dimention showing the practical structure of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention;

[0019] Fig.4 is a perspective view of the preferred embodiment of the connection style of the light string of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention;

Fig 5A is a perspective view of stretching out of the base frame of the decorative light strings with

5 combinative tree of the present invention;

Fig 5B

[0020] Fig 5A is a perspective view of folding upstretching out of the base frame of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention;

10 Fig 65B is a perspective view showing of folding up of the practical structurebase frame of the light string of decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention;

[0022] Fig 7A6 is a perspective view showing the disassemblypractical structure of the short pipe light string of decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention;

[0023] Fig 7BA is a perspective view showing the assembly/disassembly of the short pipe of decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention;

DETAILED and

[0024] Fig 7B is a perspective view showing the assembly of the short pipe of decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED

EMBODIMENTS

[0025] Referring to the drawings in particular. For the convenience of the description, the same composing part is to show the same number in the drawings.

10 [0026] Now, referring to Fig.1, it is a perspective view of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. The structure of this combinative tree 1 includes a supporting surface 21, a base frame 20, a long trunk 10, and multiple branches 30; the base frame 20 is supported by the terminal base part, said base part having fastening ring 241 is fixed on the supporting surface 21 by using the pin 25; base frame 20 having center axis 22 to connect 15 with the long trunk 10, said long trunk 10 is composed of many short pipes. The height of tree

body can be adjustable by the number of the short pipe. There are many branches 30 connected to the long trunk 10 so as to form a structure of combinative tree.

Fig.2 relates to the connection style of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. The base frame 20 has the center axle 22 to support the main trunk to stand up right. Between the main trunk and base frame, the hollow short pipe 11 did not attach with branch and light string to increase the distance between this light string and support surface. The multiple branches 30 connect on the long trunk.

Fig.4

10 [0027] Fig.2 relates to the connection style of the light string of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. The base frame 20 has the center axle 22 to support the main long trunk to stand up right. Between the main long trunk and base frame, the hollow short pipe 11 did not attach with branch and light string to increase the distance between this light string and supportingsupport surface. The multiple branches 30 connect on the long trunk.

[0028]

Text Mirrored Page 1

Fig.3 is a perspective view with 3-dimention showing the practical structure of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. The present decorative light strings with combinative tree 1 includes long trunk 10 connected by many hollow short pipes 11. Said hollow short pipe 11 has connected tenon (not shown) for easy to fix it tightly. The amount of the short pipes 11 decides the height of tree body. The base frame 20 supported on the supporting surface 21 has the center axle 22 to support the main long trunk 10 to stand up right. The multiple branches 30 connect on the long trunk 10. Single or many sets of light strings 40 are composed of many lamp bulb 41, lamp holder 42, electrical conductor 43 and receptacles 44 to be fixed on the branches 30 to establish tree light.

10 Rec. Of Attorney Rec.

[0029] Fig. 4 relates to the connection style of the light string of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. The base frame 20 has the center axle 22 to support the main long trunk to stand up right. Between the main long trunk and base frame, the hollow short pipe 11 did not attach with branch and light string to increase the distance between this light string and supporting surface. The multiple branches 30 connect on the long trunk.

[0030] Fig 5A is a perspective view of stretching out of the base frame of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. The base frame 20 is composed of many branch frames 23. Said base frame is to stretch out or to fold up from center axle 22. The terminal end of branch frame 23 has a base part 24 attached fastening ring 41. The pin via the fastening ring

241 is to nail into the support surface to fix the base frame 20.

[0031] Fig 5B is a perspective view of folding up of the base frame 20 of the decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. From the center axle 22, many branch frames 23 fold up together to reduce the volume. The base part 24 of branch frame is 5 equipped at the end of many branch frames 23, and is attached with fastening ring 241 whereby to accept the pin 25.

[0032] Fig 6 is a perspective view showing the practical structure single or many sets of light string 40 of decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. Said single or many sets of light string 40 are connected with many short pipes 11. The connecting 10 ring 16 on the short pipe 11 is used to connect the branches, and light string 40 is attached on the branches with their shape. The light string 40 is composed of lamp bulb 41, lamp holder 42, electrical conductor 43 and receptacle 44.

[0033] Fig 7A is a perspective view showing the disassembly of the hollow short pipe 11 of decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. An outer rim 111 of 15 one end of the hollow short pipes at the predetermined distance of the open end 13 having a flange 121. An outer rim 112 of another end has a predetermined length of L-indentation 122 from the open end extending and matching the position of the flange. From the end having the

flange, said flange is to aim at the open end of the L-opening 14 of another short pipe, to fit into the right position, then to rotate it to L-tail 15 and to fix it tightly.

[0034] Fig 7B is the drawing showing the assembly of the hollow short pipe 11 of decorative light strings with combinative tree of the present invention. The hollow short pipe 11 5 has L-tail 15, already on the enlarged part 123 to fix the flange 121 tightly to form short pipe 11.

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications and improvements thereon will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the appended claims are to be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the spirit and scope of the 10 invention described herein.

SYMBOL LISTS

1 light strings

10 long trunk

11 short pipe

15 111, 112 outer rim

121 flange

122 L-indentation

13 open-end

14 L-opening

5 15 L-tail

16 connecting ring

17 short hollow pipe

20 base frame

21 supporting surface

10 22 center axle

23 branch frame

24 base part

241 fastening ring

25-pin

30 multiple branches

40 single or multiple light strings

5 41 lamp bulb

42 lamp holder

43 electrical conductor

44 receptacle